



STATE SENATOR
BRUCE PATTERSON
IN THE LOOP ★

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Please forward to a friend!



Senate recognizes Olympic-medal winners

Senator Patterson welcomed Olympic-Medal winning ice dancers Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto to the Capitol to recognize their accomplishments.

The skaters were presented with a tribute signed by Patterson, Governor Granholm, State Representative Phil LaJoy, and Senator Nancy Cassis.

The skaters live in Northville and train in Canton – both in our Senate district!

Ms. Belbin and Mr. Agosto also were honored by the Senate when they declared June 15, 2006 Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto Day in Michigan.

Congratulations!

[http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(tqlhxx45mw0hj2ee2jzvs524\)/mileg.aspx?page=getobject&objectname=2006-SR-0149&queryid=14337776](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(tqlhxx45mw0hj2ee2jzvs524)/mileg.aspx?page=getobject&objectname=2006-SR-0149&queryid=14337776)

Senate committee moves to limit phosphorous in fertilizer

Michigan would have some of the toughest phosphorous regulations in the country under legislation passed through a Senate committee recently. The Senate Agriculture, Forestry and Tourism Committee approved Senate Bill 840 on a bipartisan vote, sending it to the full Senate. The measure would establish statewide limits on the amount of phosphorous in fertilizer for nonagricultural use. Phosphorous runoff promotes excessive algae and vegetation growth, affecting Michigan's lakes and streams.

Besides limiting the phosphorous content of fertilizer, the legislation would prohibit fertilizer from being applied:

- Within 10 feet from waters unless approved by the state;
- To soil that is frozen or saturated to field capacity; and,
- In a way that spreads fertilizer on roadways, parking lots, concrete, or similar areas that prevent the infiltration of water into the soil.

Senate bill allows same-sex schools

The Senate passed a bill to allow same-sex schools. Senator Patterson voted against the bill because he had concerns with the Constitutionality of the measure.

To read news coverage, go here:

<http://www.lsj.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060615/NEWS04/606150338/1005/opinion>

To read Senator Patterson's statement, go here:

[http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(tqlhxx45mw0hj2ee2jzvs524\)/documents/2005-2006/Journal/Senate/pdf/2006-SJ-06-15-060.pdf](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(tqlhxx45mw0hj2ee2jzvs524)/documents/2005-2006/Journal/Senate/pdf/2006-SJ-06-15-060.pdf)

(please see page 1355)

Legislation to promote safe driving passes the Senate

Motorists traveling on Michigan freeways could soon see signs reminding them to drive in the right lane and leave the left for passing, under legislation that passed the state Senate.

Senate Bill 1127 was introduced to promote driving safety. Since 1949, Michigan law has stated that motorists must drive in the right lane and leave the left lane for passing. However, this law is often ignored, which can lead to unsafe driving conditions, road rage and traffic tickets for violators.

Under the legislation, signs stating the rule will be placed on limited access freeways, near Michigan's border and where the Michigan Department of Transportation deems necessary.

Senate bill to protect cell-phone records passes in the House

A bill sponsored by Senator Patterson that would protect consumers against the fraudulent use of their phone records unanimously passed the state House. Senate Bill 1202 would prohibit anyone from knowingly obtaining or selling (or attempting to do so) a confidential telephone record without the prior authorization of the customer.

Experts say that just a few personal facts about an individual can allow someone to pose as that person and obtain his phone records by fraud. Phone-service providers try to keep these records confidential, but con artists have found ways to deceive them and obtain personal information.

To read more, go here:

<http://www.mlive.com/newsflash/michigan/index.ssf?/base/business-8/1150327757299160.xml&storylist=newsmichigan>

Emergency 911 service to continue

The Senate passed Senate Bill 1172 and sent it to the Governor this week. The bill extends the life of current 911 system in Michigan until December 31, 2007. There has been considerable debate about how to fund 911 operations in an equitable manner. The bill requires a report from a group commissioned by the State Police by December 1, 2006 to the Michigan Legislature on the various funding options and other ways to improve 911 service. The bill was acted upon by the Senate Technology and Energy Committee, which Senator Patterson chairs.

That doesn't look like them at all!

The Senate has passed Senate Bill 1125. The bill would amend the Michigan Consumer Protection Act to prohibit as an unfair trade practice advertising or conducting a live musical performance or production by using a false or misleading association between a "performing group" and a "recording group".

There have been cases reported which involve performances by groups representing themselves to be a well-known act, when in fact they are not. This bill would provide mechanisms to protect the public from such fraud.

Summer is almost here!

Wednesday, July 21 is the first official day of summer.

Consider visiting this website for summer travel ideas: <http://www.michigan.org/travel/>

Contact Information

Thank you for your interest in our current state issues. If you would like to receive future updates via e-mail, please contact my office at < senbpatterson@senate.michigan.gov >. You can also visit me in my Lansing office at 505 Farnum Building, just across S. Capitol Avenue from the state Capitol; or you can send me mail at P. O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909. Telephone (517) 373-7350 or (866) 262-7307; fax (517) 373-9228. I want to hear from you!

See the *Legislative Questionnaire* on the Website, too! Your responses are welcomed!